

Bulletin

DECEMBER 18th, 1947

TEBET 5. 5708

Shertok Urges Support Of New Jewish State

Moshe Shertok, Chief Political Advisor of the Jewish Agency, was the guest speaker in the synagogue pulpit on Friday evening, December 5th. A special Service of Thanksgiving over the United Nations decision on Palestine and the imminent establishment of a Jewish State was held in place of the originally scheduled service at which Dr. Max Arzt was to speak.

Mr. Shertok, one of the leading Jewish statesmen of our day, made a stirring extemporaneous address to a thoroughly filled synagogue. He gave some of the background and behind-the-scenes information regarding the United Nations decision, stressing that we must not be overconfident, remembering always that this is only a *decision* for the establishment of a Jewish State. As in all births, pain and anguish will have to accompany this newly reborn Jewish State; this therefore is only natural.

The Palestinian Jews, who realized as never before the overwhelming need for an autonomous Jewish nation as a result of the tragic "Struma incident", are ready and willing to give their lives to see that the United Nations decision becomes, in fact, a reality.

However, though they are willing to give of themselves, not only for their own

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Rabbi Goldin To Occupy Pulpit Dec. 26th; Collegiate Symposium To Follow Service

Rabbi Judah Goldin will be the guest speaker at the Annual Collegiate Service to be held on Friday evening, December 26 at 8:30 p.m. His subject will be "Accent on Tradition."

Hanukkah Celebrated At Synagogue Party

A most pleasant congregational family get-together was enjoyed by the members of the Park Avenue Synagogue at the *Hanukkah* party last Sunday evening, December 14th. Thanks and congratulations are due to Mrs. Milton M. Sivek under whose chairmanship the party was such a successful event and also to Clara L. Ostriker, who produced and directed "The Parable of Reb Yisroel," the radio drama presented.

"The Parable of Reb Yisroel" was written by Morton Wishengrad and was originally presented as one of "The Eternal Light" programs on the National Broadcasting Company network under the auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

The script was well-handled and interpreted by the cast which included:

Voice—Beulah W. Warshaw

Narrator—Marilyn Grossman

Thief—Alan R. Putterman

Menachem—Gilbert Helman

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For the past decade it has been the practice of the Synagogue to invite college students of the Congregation, who will be home from school for the Winter vacation, to participate in this Sabbath Service.

This year, after the Services, a Student Symposium led by the college students will be held at the *Oneg Shabbat*. This will give the members an opportunity to discuss the topic and other religious matters in campus life.

Dr. Goldin is well equipped to lead this Annual Collegiate Service. He is Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Iowa (having succeeded Rabbi Kertzer in this post) and will be remembered by many of the congregation as a former member of the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School staff. Since his graduation from the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Goldin has served as a Rabbi in Philadelphia, Professor at Duke University and Associate National Director of the Hillel Foundation.

This background and Dr. Goldin's close connection with college students in religious affairs on campus, will undoubtedly effect a most stimulating discussion at the Student Symposium. Tradition, its meaning and the role it plays in everyday life has, for a long time past, been the source of much thought on the part of collegians everywhere.

Dr. Goldin has had a distinguished career both as an educator and as a scholar. He received his Doctorate at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is an authority in the field of Rabbinics on which he has written extensively.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve Friday, December 19th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer will preach on "Shylock And His Daughter"

A Fresh Viewpoint on Shakespeare

Sabbath Eve Friday, December 26th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Judah Goldin will preach on "Accent on Tradition"

Sabbath Eve Friday, January 2nd, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on "EXISTENTIALISM: What Is It About? What Is Its Message For Religious People?"

Sabbath Morning Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.

Bachurim Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 11:00 a.m.

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Vol. 2

No. 6

From the Desk of Rabbi Kertzer

OUR Synagogue has witnessed many happy occasions — weddings, Bar Mitzvah and Bas Mitzvah celebrations, the naming of new babies in the congregation, but never were tears of joy more freely shed than on the Friday evening when we joined in thanksgiving prayers for the decision of the United Nations. As Cantor Putterman, his own heart filled with *simchah*, chanted fervently the blessing *Shehechiyonu*, many a cheek glistened with unashamed tears.

Looking back upon the historic event, the impact of those thrill-crowded days is beginning to take on clearer meaning.

We realize first and foremost that those of us who "were sustained to this day" will be able to tell our grandchildren about the radio broadcast, on whose every syllable we hung with bated breath: . . . "Belgium, yes . . . France . . . yes . . ." and the solemn declaration of Dr. Aranha: "Yes . . . 33 . . . No . . . 13." In a very real sense, at that instant the infant state of Israel was born. Even more thrilling, was re-born!

For our brothers and sisters rotting in the DP camps that pronouncement read: "Your life-sentence has been commuted. Your prison days are at an end!"

For our fellow-Jews in the Yishuv Dr. Aranha's announcement said: "At long last your sacrifices have borne fruit. Go forth and build. But now when you labor, you know that it is *your own* you are building!"

To the Arabs, the declaration read: "Enough of your nonsense that the Jew-

Reserve Jan. 11th; Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday evening, Jan. 11th in the Vestry. The committee consisting of Mr. Harold Levin, Mr. Ezra Cohen and Mrs. Edward Piper is at present working on the details. Full plans will be disclosed in the next issue of the BULLETIN. All congregational members are urged to set aside this date to attend what promises to be an eventful evening.

ish people has no place in the sun. A few million Moslems cannot stand in the way of justice because hundreds of millions of human beings, from every walk of life, communist, socialist, and capitalist; Catholic, Protestant and non-believer, have expressed their firm belief that Israel is a people, and the land of Israel their homeland."

To the man in the street the words which came from Flushing Meadows said: "Despair you not of mankind. Humanity fumbles and stumbles, it loses its way in the jungle of ignorance and bigotry, but the voice you have just heard, by courtesy of the United Nations, is the voice of man's Conscience! You will be hearing that Voice often from this day on!"

* * *

The inauguration of the social season coincided with President Truman's pronouncement urging us to conserve food.

We Jews who are especially aware of the need for carrying out the Conservation program can contribute in several direct ways: First, we can limit public banquets to a minimum, and at all events introduce some measure of austerity. It has always struck me as ironic for a group of men and women to sit down to a 10,000-calorie dinner to discuss what ought to be done with people living on 1,200 calories.

Secondly, as individuals we ought not to permit ourselves the luxury of resplendent dinners for *Simochas* this winter. At a time when so many human beings are living on starvation rations, and dying of malnutrition, we Americans are in danger of losing our souls if we gorge ourselves with our God-given abundance.

New Tutorial System Explained To Parents

Mr. Saul Godwin, chairman of the School Board of the Park Avenue Synagogue has sent a letter to the parents of all children from 10 to 13 years of age, now in our Religious School, explaining the newly instituted 3-day week school.

We feel that this explanation is vital enough to bear repetition in toto in the BULLETIN.

"As you were advised at the end of the last School Year, children of the age groups of 10, 11 and 12 are expected (in the absence of any controlling circumstances to the contrary) to attend our Religious School not merely on Sunday mornings but on two other occasions during the week as well, each of which additional sessions is of one hour duration.

For children prevented from participating in this expanded program (either because of conflict with the hours of their secular schooling or because of distance from our Synagogue) we have made arrangements for a tutorial system—that is to say, for home instruction which is available to individual children and to small groups under our supervision.

Though tutorial instruction lacks many of the virtues and opportunities of classroom education, especially by way of social and group experiences, it does make possible individualized teaching. On that score we are prepared to accept one hour of tutorial instruction as the academic equivalent of two hours of classroom instruction at our Hebrew School. Parents, however, should understand that it is the academic equivalent only, not the social or emotional.

All tutors in the tutorial system are hired by our Religious School and tutorial tuition will be billed for by the Religious School. The tutorial rates are \$5 per hour for personal instruction of one child. The rate is \$6 per hour for more than one child, which latter charge will be divided pro rata among the children of each group.

We know that you are deeply concerned with the proper Jewish rearing of your child. Will you not, therefore, give us your maximum cooperation in effecting this improvement which should spell immense enrichment of your child's Jewish existence."

Junior League Features Old Fashioned Movies

The Junior League on Sunday, December 21st, will again sponsor an Old Fashioned Movie Night. This event, which proved so entertaining last spring, will be held in the Vestry at 8:30 p.m. Among the pictures to be shown will be a Charlie Chaplin short, a Mack Sennett comedy, a Harold Lloyd film and shorts featuring other old timers.

Following the movie there will be dancing and refreshments. Admission will be \$1.00 with the proceeds for charity, and everyone is invited to attend.

The Junior League is very pleased to announce that twelve new members have recently been accepted. They are: Joseph Blinderman, Lucille Duke, Ted R. Elkart, Hadassah Fain, Anna Garbuz, Zelda Halperin, Marilyn Hittner, Marvin Holden, Ira L. Lee, Michael Martus, George M. Spencer and Jules W. Toff.

Birth

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chusid on the birth of their daughter.

Bar Mitzvahs

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Myers on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Henry on December 20th; to Mr. and Mrs. William Levine on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Larry on December 27th.

Marriage

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cohen on the recent marriage of their son, Marvin to Joan Hart Rosenstock which took place on Sunday, December 7th.

Anniversaries

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abrams who celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on December 15th; and to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Z. Altmark who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on December 17th.

Deaths

The Synagogue extends its sympathy to Mrs. Rose Asinof on the death of her husband, Max Asinof; to Mrs. Flora Lessler, on the death of her husband, Leo Lessler; to Mrs. Emma Luebeck on the death of her brother, Abraham de Lemas, and to Mrs. Samuel Lifton on the death of her sister.

For Your Information

Hanukkah was observed at the Jewish Museum with the lighting of the *Hanukkah* candles every evening by the children of the Religious School. Among those participating were Richard Druss, Gerald Gotterer, Donald Holzman, Arthur Jacobs, Laurence Lemkin, and Alan Putterman. One of the oldest and most beautiful *Memorahs* in the Jewish Museum was used.

We wish to remind the members of the Synagogue once again, of the Jewish Museum at 92nd Street and 5th Avenue. The Jewish Museum has on display some of the most beautiful works of Jewish art and objects of antiquity that are to be found anywhere in the world. Guided tours, organ recitals and chamber music concerts are given frequently. We suggest you make the Jewish Museum one of your "musts".

Copies of Rabbi Kertzer's "With an 'H' on My Dog Tag" are still available for sale at the Synagogue office.

Irving Geist, a member of the Advisory Council of the Board of Trustees, was awarded a Presidential Citation, on December 10th, for his meritorious services during the last war.

Hanukkah Party

(Continued from page 1)

Judge—Louis I. Heller

Angel—Muriel Gold

Phineas—Arnold Rogers

Abner—Peter Zendman

Reb Yisroel—Jerome Low

Wife—Susan P. Ochs

Reuben—Edward Davidson

Nachum—George Osserman

Cantor David J. Putterman directed the musical portion of the program and the lighting effects were under the supervision of June Rosenthal.

Among the other events of the evening was an appeal for funds for *Haganah* made by Harold H. Levin and a talk on the subject of *Hanukkah* by Rabbi Milton Steinberg.

Compliments are also in order to Mrs. Dorothy Gellert and her able committee of hostesses for the fine refreshments served.

Rabbi Steinberg Speaks On Civil Liberties

Before a very large congregation assembled for worship at the Park Avenue Synagogue on Friday evening, November 7th, Rabbi Milton Steinberg set forth his ideas on "Congress, Communists, and Civil Liberties."

He warned of the inroads on democracy and freedom being made by those who have been elected to be its defenders. The loyalty test required of government employees and the recent hearings held by the Committee on Un-American Activities were his two examples of the evening.

The vague, indefinite, and unpublished criteria set up for judging the loyalty of government employees, even in divisions which have only a very far fetched effect on our national security was one of the points decried by Rabbi Steinberg. He pointed out that while Communists should be excluded from departments immediately concerned with national defense and security, such as those dealing with the atomic bomb, their exclusion from other branches of government service is an infringement upon their rights as free American citizens.

Witch-hunt for Liberals?

The actual number of Communists in government service is small, well-watched and have for a long while past been barred from the most vital government jobs. Then, asks Rabbi Steinberg, why the sudden fuss about seeking out those already known? Perhaps Communists are not being sought at all. Indeed, perhaps it is the non-Communist liberals who are being sought and who it is hoped will be intimidated and discouraged from entering government service.

The recent hearings involving the motion picture industry were held for the same purpose. That is, to discourage any kind of liberalism in the pictures produced by Hollywood.

These developments are serious enough in themselves but to keep them from becoming even more widespread, we must see them for what they really stand—not a witch hunt of Communists but actually a witch hunt for non-Communist liberals by a group of reactionaries who hope to undo the work of the past twelve years.

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Eye Witness Account of Birth of Jewish State

The BULLETIN is fortunate indeed to be able to print in part a timely letter received by one of its staff from a friend in Palestine.

"Tel-Aviv, 3:30 a.m., 11-30-47—Never before did it feel so wonderful to be alive—I keep repeating 'Blessed art thou, O Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us in life and hast preserved us, and enabled us to reach this time'! It is almost morning—but who can sleep? The streets below are thronged with singing and dancing people. How I wish you could be here with me to share this wonderful dream come true.

The day dawned like all other days. Who would have thought it would be the Sabbath of Sabbaths? I slept late, and was angry that I was so tired after the week before that I could not get up in time to go to the Synagogue. . . . The afternoon was spent in a political discussion . . . I was puzzled—the Philippines—look how long they had waited for their independence—they were against us. Greece—didn't they want the same thing we did? Was our fate to be decided by Haiti, or Cuba, or Colombia? When at last could the farmer Gallil, the Emek, the Negev wake up and look at his wheat growing on HIS land? Or were we to have to wait longer and longer?

. . . When we approached the Mogravi theatre at 11:45—the newspaper trucks of the *Davar* and *Haboker*, equipped with sound tracks were signaling, 'Listen, attention', crowds started to gather in the circle—in a few minutes it was jammed with thousands of people—nearby streets were packed. They stood and waited—the silence was terrific—a single sigh could be heard—or a drop of a handkerchief. '*HAKSHIVU*—the the vote on partition is 33 to 13 in favor!' An electric current started with one and passed through every one of us. The longing, pent-up for 2000 years and now fulfilled, dissolved us in sobs. Such a feeling could come only once in a lifetime—if ever. I can't describe it. And me, an illegal—it had happened in my own lifetime. The delicious shock turned to shouts and then immediately the one voice of thousands of people sang *HATIKVAH*—and our flag was unfurled in

Rabbi Steinberg acknowledges with thanks the many communications of felicitation which came to him on his 44th birthday a fortnight or so ago. He asks the BULLETIN to inform the members of the congregation that he finds the experience of growing older made very pleasurable by the comradeship with him which so many of the members of the congregation have expressed.

the middle of the circle. For four hours the stairs of the theatre were jammed packed as the people watched the others below. A dozen different *Horas* could be seen—I dropped my bag and joined in—my first *Hora* in our free land. Cars, buses, trucks—everything on wheels—were immediately filled with singing, delirious people. Look at the faces—the tiny ones—dancing and singing—Thank God they will have a decent future—the old, seamed ones—if only Grandfather could have lived to this day—I am certain they are all repeating the *Sheehianu* to themselves. The full moon showed up wet cheeks and brimming eyes—even among the dancing ones. Yes, dance tonight and be gay; tomorrow our difficult and dangerous job of building the Jewish State continues.

It is ironic to remember that the same sound trucks that brought the joyous news were the ones which used to go through the streets blaring, '*OTZER, OTZER*, Curfew, get indoors—anyone found outdoors is liable to be shot on sight!' It was unusual to see a few tipsy people. It is rare indeed to see a drunken Jew on the streets—and when they do drink—as tonight—and what better reason could one have—one saw the signs which indicated they didn't know how to drink and could not take it!

The news was fresh—yet, one could hear little knots of people discussing the treatment of the British. The public opinion seemed unanimous. 'Now they are guests in our land—and until they leave, we must treat them well.' I was reminded of the passage in the Bible instructing us to treat well the stranger who sojourneth in our Land because we ourselves remember that we had once been strangers in Egypt.

It's good to be alive!

Yours, T.P.

Moshe Shertok

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loved ones, but for all Jews everywhere, Mr. Shertok pointed out that it is up to us, outside of Palestine and in the United States especially, to help in this great effort as well. We must aid by contributing even more to the United Jewish Appeal this year, and also, to provide our Palestinian brethren with the where-with-all to fight back literally. Give and give and give funds again and again to *Haganah*, the army of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. This can be done very easily, by sending your contribution to the Synagogue, but *send it*, and send it *now!*

Civil Liberties

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Rabbi Steinberg concluded that "it is not only for the sake of today but for the sake of tomorrow, our own, that of our children and children's children, that of America, that of all the world, that I summon you to rally to what may well prove to be the first skirmish in the great and ever continuing battle fought by all men of good will, of all generations and renewed in our time in a form peculiar to our age, on behalf of that most precious of human values: the freedom of the human person, body, mind and soul."

We wish to remind everyone that the next series of lectures of the Committee on Adult Education on "A Blueprint For A Jewish State" will commence on Monday, Jan. 12th. Reserve this date.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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